



In re: application entitled **Laparoscopic Lifter Apparatus and Method**

Inventor: Gregory R. Pittman

Group Art No. 3731

Application Serial No. **10/075,948**

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Examiner: (Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho

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To: Examiner ((Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho

Response to Examiner's Detailed First Action: Mailed 04/30/2004  
Amended marked up version of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) A laparoscopic lifter apparatus comprising

a flexible arms component having first bilateral handles joined to a central element securing a solid rod substantially perpendicular to said bilateral handles, said solid rod passing through an internally threaded ring housing, a locking screw, then said solid rod terminating in a connector piece with means for gripping band like flexible arms; and

a tubular rod component having a hollow externally threaded coupler adhered to a central hollow knob securing a tubular rod, said central hollow knob supporting second bilateral handles substantially perpendicular to said tubular rod; ~~said flexible arms component and said tubular rod component assembled to comprise said laparoscopic lifter apparatus~~ wherein said flexible arms are pushed through said hollow externally threaded coupler into said hollow knob and then into said tubular rod, said internally threaded ring and said externally threaded coupler securing said flexible arms component to said tubular rod component by screw means, ~~to comprise said laparoscopic lifter apparatus~~.

2. (Original) The organ lifter apparatus of claim 1 wherein said flexible arms assume

arcuate shapes when extended out from said tubular rod.

3. (Original) The organ lifter apparatus of claim 1 wherein said flexible arms terminate in blunt ends.

4. (Original) A method for using said laparoscopic lifter apparatus as described in claim 1 comprising the steps of

holding said laparoscopic lifter apparatus with said flexible arms retracted inside said tubular rod,

inserting said laparoscopic lifter apparatus into a patient's abdominal cavity through a trocar sleeve,

reaching an organ site,

extending said flexible arms outside said tubular rod,

positioning said flexible arms under a target organ,

lifting said organ to expose an organ hilum,

dissecting said hilum,

ligating, suturing, and clipping blood vessels associated with said hilum,

removing said flexible arms from under said organ,

retracting said flexible arms into said hollow rod,

and

removing said laparoscopic lifter apparatus from said patient's abdominal cavity.